



A RESOLUTION

Councilman C.T. Martin

A Resolution urging the Federal Communications Commission not to relax or eliminate any of its media ownership rules that have protected the public interest for nearly a quarter of a century; requesting the FCC to delay a vote on the matter beyond June 2nd; requesting the FCC to release to the media and public staff recommendations; and for other purposes

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is poised to relax or eliminate wide ranging set of media ownership rules, including allowing a newspaper to buy a television station in the same city; and

WHEREAS, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell has stated publicly that he supports the elimination for the first time in nearly 30 years of the limitation on the number of television stations that can be owned by networks; and

WHEREAS, the FCC staff is recommending raising the ownership limits for networks from 35 percent to 45 percent of the national audience and raising from two to three the number of television stations one company can own in large markets; and

WHEREAS, the FCC staff recommendations have not been released to the media or to the public for public comment or review; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Powell has refused to delay a critical vote on this matter scheduled for June 2, 2003 requested by commissioners Michael J. Copps and Jonathan S. Adelstein, when such requests are typically honored under FCC tradition; and

WHEREAS, media consolidation, cross-ownership, and deregulation for sake of deregulation harm diverse voices, a marketplace of ideas, and media democracy; and

WHEREAS, Atlanta has a fine tradition of opposing media consolidation, whose successes date back nearly a quarter of a century in efforts led by the NAACP, the ACLU, the Southern Regional Council, and others; and

WHEREAS, Atlanta is a diverse, multicultural city whose interest is in providing articulation to the voices to all its citizens, including minorities, women, labor, human rights advocates, and other disparate voices that don't often get heard in mainstream media environments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA as follows:

Section 1: That the Federal Communications Commission is urged not to relax or eliminate any of its media ownership rules that have protected the public interest for nearly over a quarter of a century.

Section 2: That the Federal Communications Commissions delays a vote on this matter beyond the June 2nd date to allow more time for public review and comment.

Section 3: That the Federal Communications Commission release to the media and public the May 11, 2003, 261-page report from staff containing recommendations.

Section 4: That the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Federal Communications Commission prior to June 2, 2003.

A true copy,

Rhonda Daughin Johnson
Municipal Clerk, CMC

ADOPTED by the Council
RETURNED WITHOUT SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR
APPROVED as per City Charter Section 2-403

MAY 19, 2003

MAY 28, 2003

RCS# 4747
5/19/03
6:01 PM

Atlanta City Council

Regular Session

03-R-0819

Regarding Media Ownership Rules

ADOPT

YEAS: 9
NAYS: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0
NOT VOTING: 6
EXCUSED: 0
ABSENT 1

Y Smith	Y Archibong	NV Moore	NV Mitchell
Y Starnes	NV Fauver	Y Martin	Y Norwood
Y Young	NV Shook	Y Maddox	Y Willis
B Winslow	NV Muller	Y Boazman	NV Woolard

03-R-0819

03-0819
(Do Not Write Above This Line)

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ADOPTED BY

MAY 19 2003

COUNCIL

*Adopted
5/19/03
By the Council*

- ☐ CONSENT REFER
- ☐ REGULAR REPORT REFER
- ☐ ADVERTISE & REFER
- ☐ 1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
- ☒ PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred
Referred To:
Date Referred
Referred To:
Date Referred
Referred To:
Referred To:

First Reading

Committee _____
Date _____
Chair _____
Referred To _____

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Members

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Members

Refer To

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Members

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Members

Refer To

Refer To

- FINAL COUNCIL ACTION**
- ☐ 2nd
 - ☐ 1st & 2nd
 - ☐ 3rd
 - ☐ Consent
 - ☐ V Vote
 - ☒ RC Vote

CERTIFIED

CERTIFIED
MAY 19 2003

ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Calvin L. Boardman

CERTIFIED
MAY 19 2003

Rodolph B. Johnson
MUNICIPAL CLERK

MAYOR'S ACTION

APPROVED

MAY 28 2003
WITHOUT SIGNATURE
BY OPERATION OF LAW